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[VIDEO: Randall Terry Thrown Out of Jim Moran/Howard Dean Event](#)

By: [Jane Hamsher](#) Wednesday August 26, 2009 7:26 am



Last night Jim Moran managed to draw the rolling freak show down on himself [in Reston with a town hall](#) targeted by out-of-district teabaggers. Reston has a voting population that is about 75-80% Democratic, so as Moran noted when Randall Terry, founder of Operation Rescue, started agitating from the crowd, these weren't people who lived there.

Moran finally had to have Terry thrown out. Terry was stirring up the highly emotional and not quite bright teabagger set by ranting that abortion would be covered in this health care bill (thank you [Kendrick Meek](#) and [Marcy Kaptur](#), it won't). I [live tweeted the event](#) while Ben Tribbett of [NotLarrySabato](#) got Terry being ejected on video, which was satisfying for all.

At one point, I heard that a guy in an Obama t-shirt had been punched in the face by a guy in a Cato t-shirt. We had a meetup afterwards at Clyde's for anyone who wanted to attend, and the guy in the Obama shirt turned out to be my friend [Jeremy Koulish](#). He'd been punched in the eye after the guy in the Cato garb tried to rip a sign out of Jeremy's hands and Jeremy wouldn't let go.

You have to go to one of these events to realize how truly antagonistic and pig ignorant the death panel freaks are. While there are plenty of good reasons to object to the health care bills that both the House and the Senate are likely to pass, they don't appear to know any. Moran eventually took questions from the audience, and three--count 'em, three--people came up and asked if the insurance was going to be so good, why wouldn't he pledge to take it himself. Each time Moran said that he would. They appeared to all be hard of hearing, however, because they kept accusing him of not answering the question and asking it again, as if the word "yes" didn't have any meaning on their planet.

At one point someone did ask him about the clause in the PhRMA deal that wouldn't allow the government to negotiate for drug prices. Moran blamed it on the White House and said he wouldn't have cut that deal himself (nice shot at Rahm). He turned to Howard Dean and asked him if he'd like to add anything, but Howard wasn't going near that one.

And then we went to Clyde's and had pie.



[Spotlight](#)

44 Responses to “VIDEO: Randall Terry Thrown Out of Jim Moran/Howard Dean Event”

Gregg Levine August 26th, 2009 at 7:33 am

[1](#)

Hooray for Pie!

(Boo for Kendrick Meeks, who is about as safe as any man in Congress, and yet behaves like he's walking a tightrope. And, a reserved “rah” for Moran, who at least had the ability to give straight answers, but still won't take the pledge to vote against a bill without a public option.)



[Reply](#)

Ron1 August 26th, 2009 at 7:38 am

[2](#)

Still no leaders in Virginia on this issue. Moran won't take the pledge, and AFAIK hasn't agreed to vote against any bill that has a federal insurance mandate but no public option. Too bad such an educated and liberal congressional district doesn't have an advocate in Congress to really fight the good fight, instead of just an alright backbencher.

 [Reply](#)

Loo Hoo. August 26th, 2009 at 7:41 am

[3](#)

Very cool. Cherry pie?

 [Reply](#)

OrganicGeorge August 26th, 2009 at 7:41 am

[4](#)

I prefer Clyde's chili with a shot of Jack.

That used to be my Sunday brunch when I lived in N Va.

 [Reply](#)

[watertiger](#) August 26th, 2009 at 7:42 am

[5](#)

there's nothing quite so infuriating as willful ignorance, except, perhaps, those who take advantage of that ignorance.

 [Reply](#)

 [dakine01](#) August 26th, 2009 at 7:50 am

[6](#)

In response to [Gregg Levine @ 1](#)

Meeks is running for the Martinez senate seat here in Florida.

 [Reply](#)

woodrowfan August 26th, 2009 at 7:50 am

[7](#)

I so wanted to be there, but classes started this week and I teach Tuesday and Thursday evenings (not good for the prof to skip his first class!). I have emailed Moran numerous times and will continue to do so.

But, I really want to hear more about the meeting. How many tea-freaks showed up?

 [Reply](#)

MsAnnaNOLA August 26th, 2009 at 7:57 am


[8](#)

My baby sister took her 3 year old daughter to a very unfriendly Steve Scalise LA-01 healthcare meeting. She had her daughter hold a sign that said "Obama is my President". The niece added her own two cents to the mix and kept saying over and over "Obama is my President and I am 3". My sister's sign said "Healthcare Now". Best part is the cutest 3 year old protester ever made the front page of the local daily.

Our family friend who attended with her had a sign that said “stop the lies”. He was standing with the 3 year old and had people coming up to him and threatening him. He was even threatened by a member of the press corps. This was all in the ten minutes my sister was parking the car.

These three were the only people in the room not threatening people and acting crazy. Representative Scalise kept spewing lies about the healthcare reform. The crazies were eating it up.

 [Reply](#)

 [Rayne](#) August 26th, 2009 at 7:58 am

[9](#)

Thanks for the live tweeting last night, Jane. Really captured the feeling of the event. Never ceases to amaze me how many of the people walking around us in this country are operating on intellectual fumes, so to speak.

 [Reply](#)

[NelsonAlgren](#) August 26th, 2009 at 8:00 am

[10](#)

In response to [Gregg Levine @ 1](#)

What’s even sadder is that he wants to be Senator. We already have enough DINO’s in the Senate. We don’t need another.

 [Reply](#)

[NelsonAlgren](#) August 26th, 2009 at 8:01 am

[11](#)

In response to [dakine01 @ 6](#)

I feel sorry for you. Thankfully we have someone willing to challenge Snarlin’ Arlen here in PA. Someone who can and will win.

 [Reply](#)

Margaret August 26th, 2009 at 8:03 am

[12](#)

Was it one of the cops who said Terry was a “great American” at the end? Nothing like an unbiased police force I say.

 [Reply](#)

ghostof911 August 26th, 2009 at 8:05 am

[13](#)

In response to [NelsonAlgren @ 11](#)

Turncoats of whatever stripe don’t sit well with Pennsylvanians.

 [Reply](#)

brendanx August 26th, 2009 at 8:06 am

[14](#)

I thought I’d describe my experience at this event.

I didn’t get in, though I got close, even though I was in the back half of a line that literally went a half a mile. So I stayed outside with the pro and con picketers, holding a sign I got from someone that said “Insurance

Companies = Death Panels”. The antis are as repellent as you imagine and I wasn’t interested in engaging any personally, until some snot-nosed kid started talking condescendingly to a middle-aged woman in my camp next to me about “our liberties”. I told him he was a snot nosed kid who should mind his manners, respect his elders (I’m a forty year old suburban man with two kids, and I had just come from work in my work clothes) and not taunt them with bullshit slogans. Then I took it down a notch and kind of engaged him “on the merits”, just so he would have an example of civility to emulate. He was being civil, in fact, and then things went very wrong. He started in with, “You know, Hitler in the 30’s...” (National Socialist, get it?) . Well, how, exactly does one respond to something so maliciously irrational, so jeeringly provocative and contemptuous of history? And then I thought: my wife is Polish; her family’s country was occupied for five years, nearly all of its Jews murdered, her own people terrorized, starved and enslaved, and its cities razed by those Nazis. I just told the kid I was going to punch his fucking face in for pulling that shit. At which point five counter protesters all converged on me to argue with me (what could I possibly argue? That they weren’t making a correct appraisal of the history of German Social Democracy, much less militarism and racial theories? Was I supposed to talk about Bismarck?). They were somewhat disparate, of different ages and sexes, yet there was unanimity in their acceptance of his argument that was horrifying. At a certain point I just told them to back the fuck off and I engaged the least aggressive, most sentient (if brainwashed) one out of them (a woman, of course), in a very civil dispute (she had played the trick of holding up a copy of a big fat bill and saying “have you read this? Have you read this?”). I wasn’t really interested in changing her mind – I just needed to reestablish some measure of civility with someone, who for all I might have know, might have been a neighbor, or had kids going to the same school as mine. This was what I found so ugly about the experience: the understanding that these very same potential neighbors would rush to side with the vicious slogans of some punk, against me, someone they have things of substance in common with.

I won’t repeat the experience. I think the phase of noisy public agitation in this debate is over. The anti protesters were making a very big deal over the fact that an Obama organization (OFA, I believe) had handed out signs, as if showing up for the miserable event and standing in the heat wasn’t enough of a commitment. I’m not going to go argue with these fucking wankers over placard authenticity.

I did get on tv at 11:00, though. Washington’s Channel 7 news asked for the opinion of a “supporter” (whatever that means, given the absence of a bill) and I said, “I don’t believe our health care system in this country should be built around middlemen, namely, insurance companies. I think they’re scammers who don’t compete fairly, and that’s why, at the minimum, I want a public option in which the government steps in to enforce competition with them.” They had me, but cut me off after “scammers”.

 [Reply](#)

alank August 26th, 2009 at 8:12 am

[15](#)

Shepherd’s pie? Assault and battery is, I believe, still actionable in the state of Virginia, tho, Reston is the nascent planned village (yuk!).

P.S., Thanks for the anecdote, brendanx.

 [Reply](#)

Leen August 26th, 2009 at 8:13 am

[16](#)

About time.

Sure took the police force enough time to throw one of the “screamers” out. If these had been Code Pinkers or a bunch of hippies or immigrants continuously interrupting these town hall meetings their asses would have been hauled off to the pokey a long time ago.

 [Reply](#)

ShotoJamf August 26th, 2009 at 8:18 am

[17](#)

Pie is nature's most perfect food.

So will the MSM deign to cover the black eye episode? There's a bit of mileage, if anyone will get off their fat ass and step up.

And O/T: I was watching WJ this morning on the passing of Kennedy..a plethora of wingnuts calling in with the usual crap. Hey wingnuts: Not even enough decency to let the body get cold?

These really *are* despicable human beings.

 [Reply](#)

alank August 26th, 2009 at 8:24 am

[18](#)

In response to [ShotoJamf @ 17](#)

It's the same sensibility that leads to killing without compunction. This is the same crowd that McCain/Palin were whipping up last fall.

 [Reply](#)

IntelVet August 26th, 2009 at 8:24 am

[19](#)

In response to [Margaret @ 12](#)

IMHO, you, as well as anyone else not there, cannot tell.

From the volume change, I would suggest it was someone close to the camera, likely, not a cop.

 [Reply](#)

brendanx August 26th, 2009 at 8:32 am

[20](#)

A woman going up and down the line at this even with clipboard (forget name and organization) was taking names and numbers and I mentioned to her that I would like to get a few people to go to Warner's office (I'm a recent transplant to VA from DC and making up for years of having no representation) to state our viewpoints. She said this is something her organization is hoping to encourage.

 [Reply](#)

Loo Hoo. August 26th, 2009 at 8:34 am

[21](#)

In response to [brendanx @ 14](#)

Wow. Well, [Hunter](#) has had it too, and I'm right with him.

 [Reply](#)

bonkers August 26th, 2009 at 8:37 am

[22](#)

The bit in the video where Terry, Randall starts talking in Spanish to that reporter simply because she had an

accent (sounded more Italian at first listen), and she says, “Uhhh...in English please...” was freakin hysterical. Such a revealing moment of the Repub mentality.

 [Reply](#)

Millineryman August 26th, 2009 at 8:38 am

[23](#)

I was at town hall on Monday night and really the tea baggers that were there were really ignorant for the most part. Jane’s right, seeing them in person give you a true sense of what these people are like. They really are ignorant.

 [Reply](#)

Ralph August 26th, 2009 at 8:43 am

[24](#)

brendanx @14

I’d handle “Have you read this?” with “Yes, have you?” I would also have studied the table of contents and maybe a few key points first, to have something to quote.

I don’t see what the interlocutor could say then.

 [Reply](#)

woodrowfan August 26th, 2009 at 8:43 am

[25](#)

In response to [Margaret @ 12](#)

I thought that was the skinny white guy they had just passed, not the cop. (I thought it was the cop at first as well, so I watched that part again)

 [Reply](#)

brendanx August 26th, 2009 at 8:46 am

[26](#)

In response to [Loo Hoo. @ 21](#)

The other dispiriting thing is the understanding that all the money and power stand on the side of these same jeering baboons, and against the rational, empirical, mild-mannered, productive people who make up the majority of my new district.

 [Reply](#)

bonkers August 26th, 2009 at 8:48 am

[27](#)

In response to [brendanx @ 20](#)

I’ve been hoping places like FDL can start offering more help in this regard. I feel it’s crucial for long-term momentum for single-payer and other issues that we start educating more “independents” and reasonable Repubs. It’ll have to be organized education efforts and active outreach to these folks.

Saw this in the NYTimes this morning, and made me think it needs to get started now before we fall too far behind:

<http://prescriptions.blogs.nyt.....e-revival/>

The Family Rescreech Council is distrubuting “Town Hall Kits” to churches. Say what you want about

religious groups and churches, they are damn good at organizing people, and we would do well compete with them on those levels as well.

 [Reply](#)

brendanx August 26th, 2009 at 8:52 am

[28](#)

In response to [Ralph @ 24](#)

I wouldn't jump to that conclusion. This woman had an earnestness I kind of respected. I suspect she may actually have read it.

 [Reply](#)

ShotoJamf August 26th, 2009 at 9:04 am

[29](#)

In response to [Loo Hoo. @ 21](#)

Very good read. Thanks.

 [Reply](#)

ShotoJamf August 26th, 2009 at 9:07 am

[30](#)

In response to [Millineryman @ 23](#)

They are undoubtedly ignorant, but their voices are drowning out the voices of sanity, thanks to a stupid and slavish MSM. As I see it, the question remains: How do we flip the argument in such as way as to get the MSM to actually cover it in a semi-literate manner? A tall order, I know, but still...

 [Reply](#)

ShotoJamf August 26th, 2009 at 9:09 am

[31](#)

In response to [bonkers @ 27](#)

“The Family Rescreech Council is distrubuting “Town Hall Kits” to churches.”

How can this not be stepping over the line in terms of their tax-exempt statuses? Where is the IRS when we *really* need it?

 [Reply](#)

Diane August 26th, 2009 at 9:12 am

[32](#)

I watched on Cspan, hoped to see Jane in the crowd. Rep Moran made a very reasonable offer to let Terry take the first question, but guess that just wasn't a rational enough alternative for his theatrics.

Thought Dr. Dean answered the Tort reform question honestly, though I would have added that Tort legislation is left to the states.

 [Reply](#)

mocha August 26th, 2009 at 9:16 am

[33](#)

I watched on CSPAN and I thought overall Jim Moran handled himself quite well although he seemed a little

taken aback at times by the crazy. The comedy gold moment was when Rep Moran was calling a name from a card, "Mary Smith, is Mary Smith out there." And some woman ambles to the front and takes the microphone and starts spouting teh crazy. Rep Moran said " Well, you're not Mary Smith, are you? YOu need to go back to your seat." Then he gave them a little scolding about let's not all get the idea to do that. And the woman went back to her seat with the craziest smile on her fact. The most unfortunate. other than Terry & Co., was the question from the man, who when Rep Moran turned to Howard Dean, told Rep Moran, "Don't ask him, you're my representative I want to hear from you." I thought that was quite rude. Rep Moran demonstrated he understood the bill as well as any of the reps I've heard, and Howard Dean added a doctor's perspective. Overall, well done, I may send Mr. Moran some Love\$>

 [Reply](#)

BargainCountertenor August 26th, 2009 at 9:22 am

[34](#)

Folks,

[This](#) is what we need a lot more of at all the GOoPer and Blue Dog town halls. Coburn's failure to say anything about the woman's obvious distress and his complete nonanswer (we should all take care of each other without the gummint getting in the way) ought to disqualify him from ever holding responsible office.

 [Reply](#)

marob203 August 26th, 2009 at 9:28 am

[35](#)

The way to spot a wingnut is the absence of facts in their rants.

 [Reply](#)

Knut August 26th, 2009 at 9:33 am

[36](#)

This point came up on an earlier thread, but make no mistake about it. There is a concerted effort on the part of those who lost the election to devalue the public's faith in government, to delegitimize it. They did the same thing to Clinton, but had the aedvantage of being able to go after him personally, which is not the case with Obama, despite the 'birth certificate, which is a pale imitation of the Whitewater accusation.

This is one of those stand tall or be crushed moments in our history.

 [Reply](#)

kidcharles August 26th, 2009 at 9:40 am

[37](#)

I don't know why after reading all that, all I have to wonder is: where the hell does one purchase a Cato Institute t-shirt?

 [Reply](#)

whyknot August 26th, 2009 at 9:45 am

[38](#)

In response to [Knut @ 36](#)

Yeah, the birth certificate crap is just a beard for people who wish the constitution said the Presidency requires BOTH parents be American citizens, just to be sure no foreigners end up running the place. 'Specially black ones. These people will stoop to anything and are fools putty for the vested interests in the

Republican Party. Rarely do you see such enthusiasm for acting against one's own best interests. Not excusing the Dem Reps from heaving to their own vested interests, of course, b/c there is way to much of that too.

 [Reply](#)

ScoutFinch August 26th, 2009 at 9:50 am

[39](#)

In response to [brendanx @ 14](#)

Wow, I'm sorry you had such a bad experience. I went to a TH last night on the left coast, and there were a lot of conservatives there and some tea partiers, but the worst were the anti abortion nuts with their stupid dead baby signs. Gross and disgusting and utterly non contributory to the discussion. In fact, the only time things got nasty was over abortion.

My impression was that there were a lot of mis-informed folks there who are very suspicious of government and government programs. **These are the people we have to reach.** I sat next to a very nice retired lady who said, "I want health care reform, but not this socialist stuff." I asked her if she was on Medicare. She said, "Yes, but there's a lot of fraud in Medicare." I told her, "If I could sign up for Medicare tomorrow, I would. I have a family to support, and the premiums are killing me." She had no response to that, but I HOPE she'll think about that later, when she's at home.

We have to have sane, rational discussions with these folks, and they are out there. Let the hoopleheads stew in their own broth. But try, at least, to get out there and talk to regular, sensible people.

 [Reply](#)

Bluetoe2 August 26th, 2009 at 9:50 am

[40](#)

Everyone be careful out there. The right wingers have been stirred up like a hive of yellow jackets!

 [Reply](#)

brendanx August 26th, 2009 at 10:33 am

[41](#)

In response to [Bluetoe2 @ 40](#)

Yellow jackets? Heck, brownshirts.

 [Reply](#)

skiritae August 26th, 2009 at 10:46 am

[42](#)

BRENDANX (#14)

So. Let me get this straight, sir.

You didn't care enough to show up in time to get inside, you couldn't be bothered to make your own sign ("holding a sign I got from someone" with a message that you obviously didn't create), you picked a fight with a "snotnosed kid" and threatened him ("I was going to punch his fucking face in"), you managed to alienate a group of another 5 people in the area, and you are proud of the fact that you managed to get some TV face time.

Does that about sum it up, hero? And the anti-bill people are the morons?

I was there, too, and I regret that we did not have the opportunity to meet. I didn't threaten anybody, I made my own damn signs, and I actually had some decent conversations with a few obamabots.

You can refer to me as a tea-bagger or whatever. Could care less. We are now motivated. There will be a reckoning.

There were so many sheep there last night bleating subservience to The Divine One that it made me feel sorry for Northern Virginia. I've always been proud to be a Virginian and proud of my heritage.

How sad that you are all in a rush to commit national suicide and hand over your lives to big government.

For the record, I did not observe anything more than exchanges of words between parties. I think that anyone who claims to have actually been in some kind of fistfight is lying, to put it simply. Any such activity would have been splashed all over the news and quickly stopped by the many police that were present.

Skiritae

 [Reply](#)

gtomkins August 26th, 2009 at 10:47 am

[43](#)

Thanks for the video. I didn't realize until seeing it that this Randall Terry is the same person who was earlier conducting street theater out in front of the west entrance to the venue. He was dressed as a doctor murdering plastic doll babies. What was really striking about his little drama, though, were the two middle-aged white guys in blackface representing Obama, who had whips and were flogging other white people dressed up, their clothing stained red from their notional flogging, as a patient and as a taxpayer. The message seemed to be, forget about 400 years of black slavery, that was all some mistaken theory. The real truth is that Black Power holds the whip on oppressed middle-aged white guys in our society. What's next, "Jews, the true oppressors of the innocent Nazis"?

I was there to get declarations signed by people waiting in line, but it was early, the line wasn't growing very rapidly, so I decided to stand center of the notional stage these psychodramatists had defined. I figured that the reality of an actual, flagrantly non-oppressed, aging white guy in the middle of their spectacle would break up whatever suspension of disbelief these folks were trying to create. Well, after a while, this person who I now recognize to have been Randall Terry, accused me of being rude. I told him that folks who had two white guys in black face treating white people like slaves was so far beyond "rude" as to make the concept meaningless. Oh, they said, the Obama-as-Simon-Legree impersonators. That's just satire, and didn't I have a sense of humor. Well, I said, in normal people the sense of decency overrules the sense of humor. After that they accused me of being a baby-killer, describing the gory details of so called partial birth abortions, etc.

I'm glad I didn't know that I was in the presence of that renowned arbiter of manners, Randall Terry. I might have acted in such a manner as to not be a credit to my race.

 [Reply](#)

carolyn August 26th, 2009 at 10:49 am

[44](#)

In response to [Loo Hoo. @ 21](#)

Xlint article. Thanks!

 [Reply](#)

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